

234 The calf is then tied nearby while the cow is milked; it is then permitted to suckle.

The cow is milked only once a day and only from June to January or February while pastures are good. Ordinarily, the cows are kept and milked in the fields. If only one or two cows are milked, they may be pastured close to the village and driven into the house yard for milking. In this case, if the owner has feed, the cow may be milked after February.

231 Oxen, and sometimes bulls, are used extensively for plowing. In a very few cases they also draw two-wheeled carts to bring in the harvest, although most of this is done by pack animals. Oxen are broken to the yoke after they are fully grown, but fairly young steers are sometimes yoked together in the pastures in order to accustom them to traveling together.

231 Animals are not bred or raised specially for beef. Cows, bulls, and steers are killed, the main consideration being the fatness of the animal. A considerable number of the animals slaughtered are oxen considered to have outlived their usefulness as draft animals. Although specially fattened for slaughter, the beef is as tough as might be expected. Calves or young animals are never slaughtered. Animals dying of disease are not eaten in Cherán but are in other towns. The hides of slaughtered cattle are valued according to prices in adjacent Mexican markets.

[184] Although Cherán raises more than enough cattle for its own use, cattle raising is not regarded as a very satisfactory business because of the lack of pasture during the latter part of the dry season. Usually, numbers of animals die of starvation during April and May. This is true of other grazing animals also.

[435] When not in use, cattle are ordinarily pastured in the mountains. They are visited every third day to make sure they have not been stolen and that they are getting water. They are driven down to the farm lands and allowed to graze on the cornstalks or wheat stubble during the winter. This practice not only aids the animals over part of the dry season with its scanty pasturage, but is recognized as a means of fertilizing the soil.

● [232] Little care is used in breeding, and new bulls are never brought in from outside. If a man owning a cow has no bull, he simply drives the

- 231 animal to a herd containing bulls. Sometimes
 ● 232 he will seek a bull regarded as superior. There
 is no service fee. Cattle are branded when
 [422] young and draft animals almost always are
 castrated.

- 231 *Pigs.*—Probably the pig is the second most
 important animal in Cherán; certainly it is
 the most common. Almost every family has at
 least one sow. If a family has no sow of its
 own, usually someone will lend a sow to be fed.
 In this case the litter is divided; should the
 animal lent be a male, the meat or proceeds of
 sale are shared.

- [439] The pig is raised for meat and fat or for sale,
 often outside the village. The skin has very
 little value. No use is made of the hoofs, but
 [252] the entrails are prized as sausage casings. A
 [364] not unimportant function of pigs is their ser-
 vice as scavengers.

- [232] Although some persons in Cherán were said
 to keep boars for breeding purposes and to
 charge a small fee for service (of from 25 cen-
 tavos to 1 peso in Paricutin), evidently little
 care is taken in breeding. Most males are
 uncastrated until it is desired to fatten them.
 As the pigs roam the streets and nearby roads
 and woods during the day, little selective breed-
 ing seems possible. Normally, pigs are fed
 just enough corn to keep them returning home.
 At night they are placed in pens to protect
 them from coyotes.

Ordinarily only boars are fattened and
 slaughtered. Some people castrate their ani-
 mals before fattening them, claiming they will
 fatten on less grain. Others dispute this, say-
 ing further that meat from castrated hogs has
 no flavor. Not every one knows how to cas-
 trate, but field notes do not indicate whether
 a charge is made for the operation when the
 aid of a neighbor is necessary. Animals being
 fattened are shut in small log pens with
 wooden floors, which are cleaned at frequent
 intervals. It is claimed that there are two
 types of pig, one of which fattens more readily
 than the other. At least 1 *fanega* (about 90.8
 qts.) of maize is used in fattening a pig. Fat-
 tened pigs are normally sold to butchers; own-
 ers ordinarily kill their own pigs only for
 fiestas.

- 233 *Sheep.*—Although relatively few families
 own sheep, the number owned in Cherán is

236 Although mutton is eaten to some extent,
 [262] sheep are raised primarily for wool. Sheep
 are sheared twice a year, in late fall and early
 [435] summer. A sheep yields about 1 pound of wool
 in two shearings, which sells at from \$1.00 to
 \$1.25 (all monetary values are in Mexican cur-
 rency). Black wool brings more than white
 (as it is all used locally for serape weaving).

233 Goats.—Only a few goats are raised. Nor-
 [234] mally they are herded with the sheep and are
 treated like them. In rare instances the goats
 are milked, and the milk is made into cheese.
 [438] The most important use of goats is to sell them
 [262] for food, usually outside the town, as goat meat
 is rarely eaten in Cherán. Goatskins are sold
 uncured with the hair.

231 Horses.—Although some horses are bred in
 Cherán and some care is exercised in breeding,
 it is said the animals deteriorate because of the
 cold climate. Consequently, most horses are
 imported, but they also deteriorate rapidly.
 More important than the cold, undoubtedly, is
 the fact that no one in Cherán understands the
 care of horses. They are badly fed and receive
 little protection from the weather. Stallions
 are castrated.

[492] In any case, horses are rare in Cherán and
 are little used except as riding animals, es-
 pecially by those with numerous cattle or pack
 animals. Riding and pack gear are the same
 [184] as those of the Mestizos. Although in other
 [241] Tarascan towns horses are used in plowing,
 this was denied in Cherán. A rather poor
 [435] horse costs about 70 pesos. Most horses be-
 [556] long to well-to-do men and primarily are indica-
 tors of social position. Attitudes toward own-
 ing a horse are a weak reflection of those of the
 vanishing Mexican *caballero*. Women almost
 never ride.

● [232] Horses are fed maize, oats, maize stalks, and
 wheat or oat straw. Few people have any
 knowledge of treating illnesses of horses.
 [422] Ownership is indicated by branding, and horses
 [552] are given names similar to those used by
 [262] Mestizos. Horse meat is not eaten, but horse
 [281] hides are valued for tanning.

Mules.—Mules are even rarer than horses
 and have a higher value. Almost all are im-
 [492] ported. They are used mostly as pack animals,
 but occasionally they are ridden or used with
 the plow.

23] Honey is used primarily to sweeten atole and
[237] as a treat for children.¹¹

[243] For the village of Capacuaro, Silvia Rendón reports what are probably native bees kept in sections of hollow log hung on the walls. She was told they produced "Campeche wax" (*cera de Campeche*).

Pets.—Only domesticated animals are pets. Dogs and cats are most commonly treated as pets, being stroked, fondled, picked up, or played with. However, this is not true of all dogs or cats, nor is it true of all individuals. Pigs often seem to be treated as pets, especially young animals, but they are not picked up or fondled. Kids are sometimes pets, especially if the mother had died and the animal has been reared by hand. Even more common, although by no means general, are sheep. Lambs are placed on a leash until half-grown; after this they follow their masters everywhere, even to automobiles. Many children have lambs as pets. One boy of 10 had an immaculately washed white lamb with a red sash tied about its middle. The lamb followed him everywhere and was even trained to stand on the pack pad of a burro so it could be taken to the mountains on wood-cutting trips.

Beliefs and ceremonies.—The only ceremony connected with domestic animals is burning copal for bees. Beliefs are likewise few. The association of cats with witchcraft has been noted. If a dog sits down and howls by day closeby, it is a sign something bad is going to happen. Coyotes are believed able to bewitch the domestic animals they eat, especially chickens. "Coyotes just shake themselves and chickens will go right to them."

● 232 *Curing of animals.*—A few men are specialists at curing animals. They are usually paid for their services. Wounds and sores are cleaned by washing with lukewarm water, to which salt is sometimes added, until all pus is removed and bleeding begins. If the wound is deep, a wick of cloth may be inserted to keep it open; sometimes peroxide of hydrogen is used as a disinfectant, but creosote is more

[184] ¹¹ Beekeeping is very popular in La Calçada. Nearly every family has at least a few hives. Much of the honey is used in the household, and only the surplus and the wax are sold. Burning of copal is not practiced.

In Angahuan and Paricutin only a few people keep bees. The largest apiary in Paricutin contained only four hives, and only three people possessed hives.

[p.33b]

232 common. If wounds are bound, carefully washed lard mixed with sugar may be applied or wet dressings may be used, dampened at frequent intervals with salt water.

Rabies is believed to be caused by the bite of some other animal, by inadequate food, or by heat. There is no cure.

Dysentery, "*posicióp*," in horses and burros is believed to be caused by cold or "*salitre*," a very salty mineral-bearing earth. The animal is fed pills of coffee, lemon, and bicarbonate of soda.

[753] "*Onia*" is caused by overwork, but the symptoms were not recorded. Treatment is bleeding the side of the neck and rest. (In general, overwork is regarded as an important cause of sickness.)

Sore feet result from the feet becoming full of blood. The bottom of the foot is bled and the animal must rest until well.

"*Roncha*" is a disease caused by mosquito bites; if it is not cured within 24 hours, the animal usually dies. Symptoms and treatment were not recorded.

"*Pirojon*" is very dangerous and kills in 24 hours. It is believed to be caused by mosquitoes or flies that have bitten a dead animal already putrefying. One curer burns the bites with a magnifying glass.

Evil eye, *malojo*, may affect animals that refuse to eat. There is no cure. The best thing is to sell the animal to the man who cast the evil eye (at his price usually); the animal then recovers.

[925] Bats are reported to bite animals at night and make them bleed. Nothing is done to prevent this. As it is said bats never bite humans, and as Cherán probably is above the range of vampire bats, the report may be folklore.

MANUFACTURING PROCESSES

128 In the previous sections were described the technological processes which involve the exploitation of the environment and the extraction therefrom of raw materials. The present section will describe techniques by which the raw materials are processed and made ready for consumption. Obviously, such classifications must be somewhat elastic. No doubt, good reasons could be advanced against including domesticated animals under exploitative activi-